

MICHIGAN LAND BANK RAZES FORMER HOME OF EMIMEM IN WAKE OF POST-FIRE INSPECTION DETERMINES STRUCTURAL EMERGENCY

Land Bank makes neighborhood safety top priority, cancels bid process for sale of property.

CONTACT: Mario Morrow
517-7633865 or morrowm2@michigan.gov

DETROIT, Mich., November 20, 2013 — The former Detroit boyhood home of rapper and record producer Marshall Mathers (aka Eminem) that was severely damaged in a recent fire was razed today to protect public safety and remove additional blight from the Detroit neighborhood where the house was located. An assessment of the abandoned Dresden Street house rendered it structurally unsound as a result of a fire that occurred in early November.

The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority, the state agency that owns the property after it had been turned over from Wayne County Treasurer's Office following tax foreclosure, gave the go ahead to professional demolition firms working in the city to clean up blighted structures and neighborhoods. "The dangerous condition of the property post-fire presents a safety risk that the Land Bank is responsible for removing to protect the well-being of others," said Michigan Land Bank executive director Kim Homan. "Safe, clean neighborhoods are at the core of our mission."

The Land Bank had been in the process of accepting bids to sell the property prior to the fire. The bid process was halted earlier this month until an assessment of the fire damage could be conducted to determine the extent of damage and plans for the continuation of the bid process.

Building inspectors determined that as a result of the fire, the property was structurally unsound and an emergency warranting immediate demolition. The Land Bank expects demolition and removal of scrap will be completed by the end of the day. All debris will be removed to a Type II landfill as required.

A competitive bidding process for a demolition contractor resulted in three bids, the lowest qualified price being an offer by a Detroit contractor who had completed many projects for the state of Michigan and city of Detroit to donate the cost of the demolition; the highest was \$10,500.

The Detroit Fire Department was unable to determine the cause of the fire.

###